



## **MANOA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 7**

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### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2006 NOELANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Nishioka called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with 8 members present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brandon Mitsuda, Chris Niemzyck, George Nakano, Nadine Nishioka, Hank Chapin, Paul Holtrop, Jeff McNeill, Chuck Pearson, Jim Harwood, Brian Kessler, Gary Andersen, Dwight Jackson, and Milton Ragsdale.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Taylor Rock, Salvatore Lanzilotti, Rose Niimoto,

**GUESTS:** Hubert Minn (Mayor's Representative); Poni Daines (Senator Taniguchi's Office staff); Jim Manke (University of Hawaii Manoa); Larry Reifurth (Governor's Representative); Representative Kirk Caldwell; Captain Pablo (Honolulu Fire Department); Lt. De Leon (Honolulu Police Department); Grace Furukawa, Cindy Ramirez, Tom Heinrich, Bob Farrell, Ivonne Cardenas (Makakilo.com); Pat Lee (Consultant for Honolulu Alternative Mass Transit); Su Shinn (Board of Water Supply); Joey Manahan (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

### **PUBLIC SAFETY INPUT:**

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT (HPD)** – Lt. De Leon distributed the monthly statistics and highlighted preventative measures to deter your home from home invasions. Major Nakagawa announced that there will be a meeting on July 19, 2006 at Manoa School Cafeteria to discuss the issue of feral pigs.

Questions, answers, and comments:

1. Member Harwood noted that in the past hunting feral pigs with dogs and knives was ineffective.
2. In response to member Mitsuda's question regarding violent crimes in the district taking place within the last month, Lt. De Leon replied no violent crimes had taken place recently.
3. Chair Nishioka reported speeding on Woodlawn Drive and East Manoa Road. HPD will look into the possibility of putting a speed trailer in the area.
4. The Chair inquired about rewards given by crimestoppers for anonymous tips that lead to arrests. Lt. De Leon explained that callers are given a case number. If the tip leads to an arrest, then a reward is deposited into an anonymous account in the bank where it can be claimed. Special arrangements are made by crimestoppers and the bank, so transactions are done privately and claimed anonymously.

The Chair thanked HPD for attending the meeting.

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT (HFD)** – Capt. Pablo distributed his report and highlighted the following:

1. Statistics for the month of June included mostly calls for medical--no calls for fire were received.

2. Community Relations:

Fire Safety Tip: Take the time to childproof your home, especially since keiki are on summer vacation. Check for potentially dangerous situations, i.e., electrical shock, accidental falls, or poisoning from medications, cleaning fluids, and houseplants. Keep matches and lighters in a safe place and out of reach of small children.

Questions, answers, and comments:

1. Jim Manke updated the Board on the University of Hawaii (UH) Lab School fire: (a) Mr. Manke could not comment on the ongoing investigation, but progress has been made towards the restoration of the facility as well as maintaining the current schedule of classes. The fire affected physical education and drama programs and displaced 29 members of the college of education. The Center for Disability Studies was also moved temporarily onto the main campus. There is concern that some debris may be considered hazardous materials, which must be disposed properly. Any salvageable debris will be salvaged especially memorabilia. (b) The UH Lab School is currently working with its insurance adjusters and looking at portable classrooms to accommodate students in the fall. Contingency plans are being made in the event the portables are unavailable. (c) Insurance may not cover all costs and donations will be used to cover any shortfalls. Mr. Manke thanked the community for their generosity and their support.
2. In response to member Mitsuda's question, donations may be made by contacting the UH Foundation at 956-7744. Alumni may call the UH Lab School at 956-7833.
3. In response to member Pearson's question regarding the replacement cost, Captain Pablo estimated the cost to be \$6.5 million. Member Pearson raised concerns over the use of capital improvement funds to aid in the restoration, and inquired what the status of UH's request for exemption from the State's procurement procedure. In response Mr. Manke replied that UH's request to be exempt from the State's procurement process is still pending.

Chair Nishioka thanked HFD and Mr. Manke for attending the meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE**—Hubert Minn, Deputy Director, Customer Services Department, distributed Mayor Hannemann's newsletter and highlighted the following:

1. The current phase of the elephant enclosure is about 60 days away from completion. Due to the City & County of Honolulu's fiscal condition, the final

phase has been pushed back for at least a year and all efforts are being concentrated on “cleaning” up the Zoo to re-certify accreditation. The huge cost associated with the final phase (approximately \$10 million) is quite difficult to justify under the present fiscal pressure the City now faces.

2. The City is currently in discussions with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on current and future compliance requirements. CIP projects are continually updated due to new information gathered. Lawsuit with Sierra Club is still on-going. The Beachwalk temporary by-pass pipe is on schedule.
3. With the cooperation of the City and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) has conducted a Forensic Hydrology and Hydraulics Study, Manoa Stream Flood of October 30, 2004. The study includes recreating the rainfall runoff event of the October 30, 2004, to analyze the bridge openings with debris blockages at Kahaloa, Lowrey, East Manoa and Woodlawn Drive Bridges. It's the City's understanding that the report will identify the flood hazard location and look at possible mitigation measures. The study should be finalized once the COE receives final comments from the State DLNR. The COE has also expanded its' Ala Wai Watershed Study to include flood controls for Manoa Valley.
4. Kamanele Park is being used as a construction staging area for 2 projects, the Manoa Water System Improvements and the University Water System Improvements, Part II. The Manoa project is estimated to be completed in July 2006, and the University project is estimated to be completed in December 2006, after which the contractor will remove the equipment and supplies, and restore the area. The contractor will attend the July 5, 2006, neighborhood board meeting to address member Peterson's concerns. The Department of Parks and Recreation indicated that there are no plans for improvements at Kamanele Park or Manoa Triangle Park.
5. Major Mark Nakagawa of District 7 (East Honolulu) spoke with Mr. Brian Kessler of Manoa Neighborhood Board No. 7 and informed him that there are currently no laws regarding graffiti eradication on private property. Subsequently, the Honolulu Police Department has no jurisdiction to take enforcement action for such occurrences.
6. In response to Vice Chair Harwood's inquiry, if the City Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) gets a complaint regarding graffiti on private property, they will send a letter to the owner requesting removal. However, they have no further authority to require removal.
7. The project completion for Kai'ipo Drive has been delayed until late August. During the removal of the existing pavement, it was discovered that the poor soil condition under the existing pavement required the removal of a large amount of sub-grade material. This required a change order to the contract. The project was delayed while the change order was being done and also due to the heavy rains in March.

8. The City Department of Transportation Services (DTS) has submitted the job order and contacted member Mitsuda to notify him of their intent to add more "Dead End" signs on Keama Place.

Questions, answers, and comments:

1. Jim Harwood would like an update on the status of work at Manoa Valley District Park's parking lot on Kai'ipo Drive. Specifically, Harwood would like to know if there is a correlation between the extension of the date of completion and the budget increase for the project.
2. Chuck Pearson is inquiring why the City has allowed Kamanele Park to be used as a staging area for the stockpiling and storage of materials and debris for BWS' repair and restoration projects. The park has been used by BWS for the past year or more and there is growing concern from the Board that the community has not been able to use the park.
3. Ann Kobayashi would like confirmation that the \$11 million earmarked for the elephant enclosure has been spent.
4. Nadine Nishioka was asking why East Manoa Road was repaved shortly after work was completed by the City, whereas Lowery Avenue has not been restored in over a year.
5. Rose Niimoto complained of potholes at Manoa Valley District Park and would like to know if more lighting is possible for areas that are not well-lit. She also mentioned that the zoo is not appealing to visitors.

Mr. Minn may be reached at 523-4590, and the Chair Nishioka thanked him for attending the meeting.

**SENATOR TANIGUCHI**—Poni Daines distributed the Senator's report, and Representative Caldwell highlighted the following for Senator Taniguchi: 1) Representative Caldwell acknowledged Senator Taniguchi's hard work and success in being able to provide tax credits for Manoa flood victims. 2) The City is required to let the asphalt settle on Lowrey Avenue prior to repaving the road completely. Councilmember Kobayashi is urging the City Department of Transportation (DTS) to expedite the work.

Questions, answers, and comments:

1. In response to Member Pearson's question regarding the updated forensic study and funds to complete phase one, Caldwell replied that Senator Taniguchi appropriated enough money for the completion of phase one. The next step is to meet with the COE, DLNR and the City and County. Pearson inquired when the studies would be available, but Caldwell could not commit for the various agencies. In response to Pearson's question regarding the appropriation to build shelters, Caldwell replied there is \$9 million but mentioned it may not be enough.

2. Member Niimoto raised concerns of traffic in the event the charter school at Paradise Park is restored.
3. Chair Nishioka inquired about Lowrey Avenue and did not understand why in the past, the City did not have to wait as long for the asphalt to settle when work was done on East Manoa Road. Councilmember Kobayashi agreed.

Chair Nishioka thanked Representative Caldwell and Councilmember Kobayashi for attending the meeting.

**MALAMA O MANOA** – 1) Member Pearson reported that Paradise Park was discussed at the Malama O Manoa meeting. The task force to investigate the Paradise Park issue has been disbanded, and there has been overwhelming support from the community to keep the charter school in Paradise Park. Pearson addressed member Niimoto's earlier concern regarding increased traffic due to the charter school and assured her any impacts would be minimal. 2) Vice Chair Harwood gave the background of the issue from minutes from the Planning Committee.

**Harwood moved and Pearson seconded to approve the minutes of the joint Manoa Neighborhood Board Planning Committee and the Malama O Manoa meeting held on March 8, 2006.** The motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY (BWS)** – Su Shinn, Chief Communications Officer for BWS gave the following update: The University Water System improvements have been delayed due to heavy rains and the asphalt shortage. Work on Woodlawn Drive is scheduled to begin on February 17 to replace broken water mains. The Punahou Water System improvements are scheduled to run from August 2006 to May 2007. Work is scheduled to begin early in 2007 to repair water mains on Oahu Avenue and Huilani Drive. BWS is seeking an extension on their permit to use Kamanele Park as a staging area for projects in Manoa.

Questions, answers, and comments:

Concerns were raised by the member that the community is unable to use Kamanele Park due to BWS' contractors using the area to store debris and asphalt. Ron Lindy, a representative from Haron Construction, explained to the Board that materials are hauled away daily, however, debris from ongoing projects can accumulate quickly. Haron Construction is aware of the community's concerns, and they are trying to complete the work as swiftly as possible.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – The June 2006 treasurer's report was filed.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Nakano moved and Kessler seconded the motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from February 2006 to June 2006 with the following corrections:**

February 2006:

Page 3 Under Manoa Residents and Others should read "The motion carried 9-0-1. (Ayes: Harwood, Nishioka, Holtrop, Nakano, Pearson, Andersen, McNeill, Ragsdale, Chapin. Abstain: Jackson)

March 2006:

Page 4, Approval of Minutes (in later version of March minutes), there should be entered a comment (call it Item 8, and renumber Item 8 as Item 9) that Clara Ching made (and wanted to see in the minutes) as follows: "Ching pointed out that minutes should be prepared to correctly and accurately reflect what transpired at the meeting, and that Neighborhood Assistants need to have more training provided by the Neighborhood Commission Office."

On another topic, both versions of the March minutes should have the following correction applied on Page 3, "Questions, answers, and comments", Item 3, "In response to member Pearson's question regarding deeming properties..." should be changed to deeding.

April 2006

Page 3 FEREL should be spelled FERAL.

Page 4 At end of the Discussion part, add Item 10: "Vice-Chair Harwood spoke in favor of the resolution and pointed out that there were inadequate attempts earlier by the HCDA to bring in the views of opponents at a time when planning changes could be made with much less impact."

May 2006

The heading should read Manoa Elementary instead of Noelani Elementary.

Page 2 Item 5 in middle of page: The first sentence should be changed to "At a previous meeting, Vice Chair Harwood had requested information...".

June 2006

Page 4 For readability, there should be a heading inserted at the bottom of the page: ELECTION OF OFFICERS referring to the results listed at the top of the next page.

Under the election for subdistrict 3, the following should be added:

Brandon Mitsuda was a member Manoa Boy Scout Troop 35. He attended Mid-Pacific Institute, the University of Puget Sound for College and the University of Hawaii Law School.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Joey Manahan, Neighborhood Assistant